

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, Applicant has canceled claims 1-12, has amended claims 13, 14, 16 and 22, and has introduced new claims 25-34. The claims remaining for consideration in this application are claims 13-34.

The Examiner objected to the amendment filed on 09/04/2009 under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduced new matter into the disclosure. Specifically, the Examiner required that the following sentence be removed from the disclosure: "When this occurs, the tether 38 keeps the plug 34 attached to the housing 12 and thereby prevents it from becoming lost." In response, Applicant has canceled this sentence from the specification and submits that this amendment overcomes the objection.

The Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention. The Examiner stated that the claim recites "a portion of the locking member first wall extends" in line 1-2 of the claim and that this is not readily ascertainable. The Examiner required clarification and/or correction. **In response,** Applicant has canceled the words "first wall" from the second line of the claim and submits that the amended claim now more distinctly defines the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thatcher et al (US 4,764,354) in view of Bannan (US 4,982,471) in further view of Bailey (US 5,086,796) and Freiler (US 5,203,372). Since the Applicant has canceled claims 1-12, this rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nell (US 4,778,534) in view of Bannan (US 4,982,471) in further view of Rossborough et al (US 4,711,258), Bailey (US 5,086,796) and Freiler (US 5,203,372). Since the Applicant has canceled claims 1-12, this rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 13-15 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monteiro (US 4,126,484) in view of Carrie et al (US 5,932,028).

In response to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 13 to include limitations relating to the provision of a vent opening defined in the side wall of the housing and a reusable plug sized to tightly seal the vent opening during normal operations. Neither Monteiro nor Carrie et al disclose a vent opening and a reusable plug and, consequently, Applicant submits that these amended claims now distinguish over these references, both singly and in combination. Application therefore respectfully submits that claims 13-15 and 21-22 are allowable over these references.

The Examiner indicated that claims 16-20 and 23-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has rewritten claim 16 in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. Applicant submits that claim 16 is therefore now in condition for allowance. Since claims 17-20, 23 and 24 all depend from claim 16, these claims should also be allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicant has submitted new claims 25-29. These claims include the same subject matter as was introduced in claims 14, 15, 21 and 22, respectively, but the new claims are dependent from allowable claim 16. As such, claims 25-29 should be allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicant has further submitted new claims 30-34 which all depend from claim 13 and contain subject matter that was initially introduced in claims 17, 18, 19, 23 and 24. If claim 13 is found allowable, then all of claims 30-34 should be allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims remaining in the application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the issues raised in this response, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (330) 244-1174.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 20th day of May, 2010.

SAND & SEBOLT



By: Joseph A. Sebolt
Reg. No. 35,352

Aegis Tower, Suite 1100
4940 Munson Street, NW
Canton, Ohio 44718-3615
Telephone: (330) 244-1174
Facsimile: (330) 244-1173
JAS/ff

Docket No. 1849021US1ANP